

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

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### ***DWD announces \$600,000 grant for dislocated Johnson County workers***

*Funding to assist workers from ArvinMeritor, Alpine Electronics and Best Buy*

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — In response to layoffs at three of Johnson County's major employers this fall, today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) announced \$600,000 in assistance to the affected workers in the community.

Awarded to the Circle Seven Workforce Investment board through the department's dislocated worker fund, the grant will be used to assist approximately 1,200 workers affected by the closure of ArvinMeritor's Franklin facility and layoffs at Franklin's Best Buy as well as Greenwood's Alpine Electronics facilities.

"We know that this has been an incredibly difficult time for this community, and its important for these workers, their families and the entire community to know that they are not in this alone," said Kernan. "We are teaming up with state, county, local and regional resources to offer all the help we possibly can to keep these people get back on their feet."

The Department of Workforce Development's Rapid Response team has held sessions with workers at all three facilities.

"Our Rapid Response team and the Circle Seven Workforce Investment Board has been on the ground since the companies announced their intention to downsize or close," said Al Degner, Commissioner for Department of Workforce Development. "We've already enrolled a significant number of people in various services – and with this additional funding we can help the remaining workers, while making sure every resource is available in the long-term."

The funding will be used in a variety of ways, including skills assessments, job search assistance, resume writing assistance, interviewing skills, in-demand occupations research, training, tuition assistance, relocation assistance and transportation costs.

"Working with WorkOne Franklin, the Circle Seven Workforce Investment Board will offer individualized services to each of these workers," said Lance Ratliff, the executive director of Circle Seven. "These are in conjunction with services already available to them and will be designed to get these folks back to work as quickly as possible. We are thankful to the state for providing this assistance."

Funding also will be used to keep a temporary outreach center open at the Alpine and ArvinMeritor facilities as well as provide services at the Carpenter's Local #2993 Union Hall, located at 1300 Graham Rd. in Franklin. In addition, workers can visit WorkOne Franklin, located at 600 Banta St. to obtain services.

"In cases like this, flexibility is of the utmost importance," added Ratliff. "This grant will allow us to strategically place our resources so we can assist the most people with the services they need."

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ArvinMeritor's closure will impact 845 workers, with about 200 transferring to its Columbus facility. Best Buy, which will discontinue distribution for Music Land, is laying off 275 of its 600 employees; and Alpine is closing its manufacturing unit, laying off approximately 180 workers, while retaining about 20 employees in its service center.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

Dislocated workers can get more information on these services by calling WorkOne Franklin at 317/736-5531 or by visiting the web at [www.Workforce.IN.gov](http://www.Workforce.IN.gov).

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